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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/716,522	TANIMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Allen H. Nguyen	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This office action is responsive to the following communication:
Amendment filed on 12/10/2007.
- Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/10/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. With respect to applicant's argument that Lobiondo and the "well known prior art" combination would still fail to teach that the control device transfers the image data to the image forming device via the communication control device, when requested, as recited in claims 1, 9 and 12.

Further, Lobiondo and the "well known prior art" would fail to teach that the image forming device includes a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with image data, as recited in claims 1, 9 and 12.

In reply: Regarding claim 1, Lobiondo '194 discloses an image forming system (fig. 1) comprising:

a plurality of devices (i.e., a plurality of workstations 30, col. 3, line 27, fig. 1) including at least an image forming device (i.e., printers 10 attached to a network; see col. 2, lines 23, fig. 1) which forms an image based on image data, a control device (workstations 30, col. 3, line 27, fig. 1) which controls an operation of the image forming device based on an instruction input through a user interface (User Interface 40; see col. 3, line 32, fig. 2), and an input device (a scanner section 35, fig. 2) which inputs the image data; a communication controller (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41), which can communicate with each of the plurality of devices (fig. 1), and, when the communication controller receives a command transmitted from any one of the plurality of devices (i.e., the print server 60 or at various local workstations 30 within the network for analyzing the information relating to the job; see col. 3, lines 43-45), based on the received command (i.e., print job command; see col. 3, lines 50-65), selects at least one device as a transmission destination from the plurality of devices except a transmission source of the received command (col. 4, lines 50-65), and transmits the received command to the selected device (i.e., scheduling the printing of print jobs at one or more of the printers 10 to obtain an efficient use of all available resources; see col. 3, lines 48-50),

Lobiondo '194 does not explicitly show wherein the control device transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested,

wherein the selected image forming device includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with the image data.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Thompson '448. In particular, Thompson '448 teaches wherein the control device (The host computer 41 via bus 52, col. 4, lines 63-64, fig. 2) transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested (i.e., the computer or host system interacts with the above scanner 10 by a conventional means, such as a cable or a data path over a network or the Internet. The host computer communicates with the scanner to initial operational commands and receive operational information from conventional sensors in the system and scanner; See col. 5, lines 8-13, figs. 1-2),

wherein the selected image forming device (Scanner 10, fig. 1) includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image (i.e., an electrical signal of sensor array 21, which represents the document image, is periodically read out, document; See col. 3, lines 50-55, fig. 2), the image forming device comparing the image with the image data (i.e., the calibration circuit then produces offset and gain correction data by comparing the signal from each of the sensor's pixels with the stored predetermined data value for the calibration strip; See col. 6, lines 10-22).

In view of the above, having the system of Lobiondo and then given the well-established teaching of Thompson, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the

system of Lobiondo as taught by Thompson to include: wherein the control device transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested, and wherein the selected image forming device includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with the image data, since Thompson stated in col. 1, lines 10-15 that such a modification would ensure the process of maintaining or calibrating the scanner to regularly obtain optimal efficiency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US 5,287,194) in view of Thompson (US 6,900,448).

Regarding claim 1, Lobiondo '194 discloses an image forming system (fig. 1) comprising:
a plurality of devices (i.e., a plurality of workstations 30, col. 3, line 27, fig. 1) including at least an image forming device (i.e., printers 10 attached to a network; see col. 2, lines 23, fig. 1) which forms an image based on image data, a control device (workstations 30, col. 3, line 27, fig. 1) which controls an

operation of the image forming device based on an instruction input through a user interface (User Interface 40; see col. 3, line 32, fig. 2), and an input device (a scanner section 35, fig. 2) which inputs the image data;

a communication controller (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41), which can communicate with each of the plurality of devices (fig. 1), and, when the communication controller receives a command transmitted from any one of the plurality of devices (i.e., the print server 60 or at various local workstations 30 within the network for analyzing the information relating to the job; see col. 3, lines 43-45), based on the received command (i.e., print job command; see col. 3, lines 50-65), selects at least one device as a transmission destination from the plurality of devices except a transmission source of the received command (col. 4, lines 50-65), and transmits the received command to the selected device (i.e., scheduling the printing of print jobs at one or more of the printers 10 to obtain an efficient use of all available resources; see col. 3, lines 48-50),

Lobiondo '194 does not explicitly show wherein the control device transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested,

wherein the selected image forming device includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with the image data.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Thompson '448. In particular, Thompson '448 teaches wherein the control device (The host computer 41 via bus 52, col. 4, lines 63-64,

fig. 2) transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested (i.e., the computer or host system interacts with the above scanner 10 by a conventional means, such as a cable or a data path over a network or the Internet. The host computer communicates with the scanner to initial operational commands and receive operational information from conventional sensors in the system and scanner; See col. 5, lines 8-13, figs. 1-2),

wherein the selected image forming device (Scanner 10, fig. 1) includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image (i.e., an electrical signal of sensor array 21, which represents the document image, is periodically read out, document; See col. 3, lines 50-55, fig. 2), the image forming device comparing the image with the image data (i.e., the calibration circuit then produces offset and gain correction data by comparing the signal from each of the sensor's pixels with the stored predetermined data value for the calibration strip; See col. 6, lines 10-22).

In view of the above, having the system of Lobiondo and then given the well-established teaching of Thompson, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Lobiondo as taught by Thompson to include: wherein the control device transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested, and wherein the selected image forming device includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with the image data, since Thompson stated

in col. 1, lines 10-15 that such a modification would ensure the process of maintaining or calibrating the scanner to regularly obtain optimal efficiency.

Regarding claim 7, Lobiondo '194 discloses the image forming system, wherein the communication controller (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41) comprises a memory (i.e., the information, which contains criteria for printing the job, can be sent to and temporarily stored in a buffer, RAM or other storage means located within a print server 60; see col. 3, lines 37-40) in which relation information (i.e., the scheduler 50, a database can include one or more files having information relating to the print job and the resources on the network; see col. 3, lines 65-68, fig. 3) between the type of the command and a device serving as a transmission destination is stored (an input data file in memory, col. 3, line 60),

selects a device relating to the received command based on the relation information (i.e., the database can include a printer file which can be located in memory containing information relating to each printer; see col. 3, line 68 and col. 4, lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 8, Lobiondo '194 discloses the image forming system (fig. 1), wherein the communication controller is arranged in the image forming device (i.e., the reprographic machine 30 generally includes a scanner section 35, a controller section 45, and a printer section 55; see col. 5, line 68 and col. 6, lines 1-2, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 9, Lobiondo '194 discloses a communication control device (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41) included in the image forming system (fig. 1), the communication control device comprising:

a plurality of communication controllers (communication channels of communication link 20, fig. 1) corresponding to each of a plurality of devices (i.e., the network can be a LAN and may comprise one or more modems 25 which interconnect the printers 10 across communication channels of communication link 20, and the workstations 30 can be a PC computer system; see col. 3, lines 20-30) included in the image forming system (fig. 1);

a controller (user, col. 2, line 33), which performs control so that when a command is transmitted from any one of the plurality of devices through the communication controller corresponding to the selected devices (i.e., a user at any local area within the network to control printing of a job at a plurality of user determined locations; see col. 2, lines 33-35), at least one device is selected as a transmission destination from the plurality of devices except a transmission source of the received command (i.e., the user may then enter through the user interface a request to utilize a different printer; see col. 5, lines 27-28), and control is performed such that the received command is transmitted to the selected device through the communication controller corresponding to the selected device (i.e., enter a required completion time and have the scheduler 50 allocate the job to one or more available printers, or choose the selected full print queue if printing is desired at the specific location selected; see col. 5, lines 29-32),

wherein the plurality of devices includes at least an image forming device (remote printers 10, col. 2, line 23, fig. 1) that forms an image based on image data, a control device (workstations 30, col. 3, line 27, fig. 1) that controls an operation of the image forming device based on an instruction input through a user interface (the User Interface 40 shown in fig. 2), and an input device (a scanner section 35, fig. 2) that inputs the image data,

wherein the control device transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested,

wherein the selected image forming device includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with the image data.

Lobiondo '194 does not explicitly show wherein the control device transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested,

wherein the selected image forming device includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with the image data.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Thompson '448. In particular, Thompson '448 teaches wherein the control device (The host computer 41 via bus 52, col. 4, lines 63-64, fig. 2) transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested (i.e., the computer or host system interacts with the above scanner 10 by a conventional means, such as a cable or

a data path over a network or the Internet. The host computer communicates with the scanner to initial operational commands and receive operational information from conventional sensors in the system and scanner; See col. 5, lines 8-13, figs. 1-2),

wherein the selected image forming device (Scanner 10, fig. 1) includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image (i.e., an electrical signal of sensor array 21, which represents the document image, is periodically read out, document; See col. 3, lines 50-55, fig. 2), the image forming device comparing the image with the image data (i.e., the calibration circuit then produces offset and gain correction data by comparing the signal from each of the sensor's pixels with the stored predetermined data value for the calibration strip; See col. 6, lines 10-22).

In view of the above, having the system of Lobiondo and then given the well-established teaching of Thompson, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Lobiondo as taught by Thompson to include: wherein the control device transfers the image data to a selected image forming device via the communication control device, when requested, and wherein the selected image forming device includes, a sensor for reading a code from the image, the image forming device comparing the image with the image data, since Thompson stated in col. 1, lines 10-15 that such a modification would ensure the process of maintaining or calibrating the scanner to regularly obtain optimal efficiency.

Regarding claim 10, Lobiondo '194 discloses the communication control device (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41), further comprising a memory (i.e., the information, which contains criteria for printing the job, can be sent to and temporarily stored in a buffer, RAM or other storage means located within a print server 60; see col. 3, lines 37-40) in which relation information (i.e., the scheduler 50, a database can include one or more files having information relating to the print job and the resources on the network; see col. 3, lines 65-68, fig. 3) between the type of the command and a device serving as a transmission destination is stored (an input data file in memory, col. 3, line 60),

wherein a device related to the received command is selected based on the relation information (i.e., the database can include a printer file which can be located in memory containing information relating to each printer; see col. 3, line 68 and col. 4, lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 11, Lobiondo '194 discloses the communication control device (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41), wherein the communication control device is arranged in the image forming device (i.e., the reprographic machine 30 generally includes a scanner section 35, a controller section 45, and a printer section 55; see col. 5, line 68 and col. 6, lines 1-2, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 is a method claim of device claim 1. Therefore, claim 12 is rejected with the reason given in claim 1.

6. Claims 2, 6, 13, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US 5,287,194) in view of Thompson (US 6,900,448), and further in view of Akiyama et al. (US 5,594,653).

Regarding claim 2, Lobiondo '194 discloses the image forming system, wherein the communication controller (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41) selects the control device (workstations 30, col. 3, line 27, fig. 1) and the input device (scanner 35 of col. 6, line 1) as transmission destinations,

The combination of Lobiondo '194 and Thompson '448 does not explicitly show the image forming system, when the received command is a command from the image forming device which requests the image data to be transferred in response to the time the image is formed.

However, Akiyama '653 teaches the image forming system, select the input device when the received command is a command from the image forming device which requests the image data to be transferred in response to the time the image is formed (col. 16, lines 60-67 and col. 17, lines 1-5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Lobiondo and Thompson to include: the image forming system, select the input device when the received command is a command from the image forming device which requests the image data to be transferred in response to the time the image is formed.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Lobiondo and Thompson because: It relates to a printing apparatus connected to a host computer for printing according to commands from the host computer (see Akiyama, col. 1, lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Lobiondo '194 and Thompson '448 does not explicitly show, wherein the communication controller selects any one of the control device and the input device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides notification that the image data and the formed image match with each other, and selects both the control device and the input device as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the image forming device, which provides notification that the image data and the formed image do not match with each other.

However, Akiyama teaches to send a command from a printer to an image input device to request for data when the formed image with each other (col. 16, lines 60-67, col. 17, lines 1-5) and send a command from the printer to both the input device (to stop the input device from sending data) and the user (control device, to notify user about the error) when the formed image does not match with each other (107 and 110, fig. 10; col. 15, lines 30-40)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Lobiondo

and Thompson to include: wherein the communication controller selects any one of the control device and the input device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides notification that the image data and the formed image match with each other, and selects both the control device and the input device as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the image forming device, which provides notification that the image data and the formed image do not match with each other.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Lobiondo and Thompson because: It will notify the user that there is a printing error and at the same time prevent the input device to continue to send data can not be printed to prevent loss of resources.

Regarding claims 13, 17, claims 13, 17 are the method claims of device claims 2, 6, respectively. Therefore, claims 13, 17 are rejected with the reason given in device claims 2, 6.

7. Claims 3-5, 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US 5,287,194) in view of Thompson (US 6,900,448), and further in view of well known prior art.

Regarding claims 3-4, Lobiondo '194 discloses the image forming system (fig. 1), wherein the communication controller (the print server 60, col. 3, line 41): selects the image forming device (remote printers 10, col. 2, line 23, fig. 1) as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the control device (workstations 30, col. 3, line 27, fig. 1) which requests a diagnosis of the state of the image forming device (i.e., the scheduler 50 can establish communication between a user and the system to request entering of criteria; see col. 6, lines 16-18),

Lobiondo differs from the claim 3, in that he does not explicitly teach which requests a diagnosis of the state of the image forming device and provides notification of the state of the image forming device as a result of the diagnosis.

However, it is well known in the art to: requests a diagnosis of the state of the image forming device and provides notification of the state of the image forming device as a result of the diagnosis (official notice).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Lobiondo and Thompson to include: requests a diagnosis of the state of the image forming device and provides notification of the state of the image forming device as a result of the diagnosis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because the user would know how and when the machine is broken and can fix the problem.

Regarding claims 5, 16, the combination of Lobiondo '194 and Thompson '448 does not explicitly show wherein the communication controller selects a device which performs at least some of processes for performing image control to adjust an image formed by the image forming device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides information on the formed image.

However it is well known in the art to: wherein the communication controller selects a device which performs at least some of processes for performing image control to adjust an image formed by the image forming device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides information on the formed image (official notice).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Lobiondo and Thompson to include: wherein the communication controller selects a device which performs at least some of processes for performing image control to adjust an image formed by the image forming device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides information on the formed image.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the system of Lobiondo and Thompson because it allows the user to adjust the printer remotely.

Regarding claims 14-15, claims 14-15 are the method claims of device claims 3-4, respectively. Therefore, claims 14-15 are rejected with the reason given in device claims 3-4.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kohtani et al. (US 6,023,559) discloses image processing apparatus, a reader controller, and a method for controlling the reader controller.

Perry (US 2002/0012445) discloses authentication watermarks for printed objects and related applications.

Umeda et al. (US 7,142,847) discloses mobile communication system, resource switching method thereof, network control apparatus included therein, same and network control method.

Murai et al. (US 2004/0246284) discloses image forming device.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory

action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

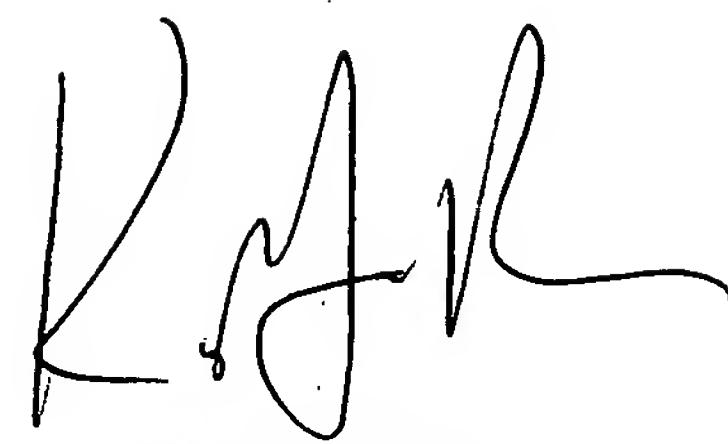
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571)-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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